



GRAYROBINSON

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WRAP-UP

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES
INSURANCE SUMMIT

TODAY'S *Presenter*



RYAN MATTHEWS

Ryan is a recognized authority in environmental policy related to natural resources, with broadly developed expertise in water future and scarcity concerns. He represents some of Florida's largest electric, water, and wastewater utility companies, local government entities, statewide associations, and top private sector corporations navigating the environmental resource permitting process.

Ryan embraces client challenges with a unique understanding of how local governmental frameworks intersect with regulated interests and the business community. Some of the state's most notable public and private players turn to him for influential decision-making and the ability to bridge communication gaps, break down barriers, and shepherd them through thorny legal, administrative, and regulatory challenges.

Before joining GrayRobinson, Ryan served as the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under the Rick Scott Administration and in the general counsel and legislative affairs offices of the Florida League of Cities. Ryan has a Master of Laws in Environmental/Natural Resources Law from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and a Juris Doctor from the Florida Coastal School of Law. He is a former Chair of the CFWI and a board member of the Florida State Park Foundation.



Government Affairs and Lobbying Deputy Section Chair
850.577.5466
ryan.matthews@gray-robinson.com

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MEET THE
PLAYERS

OFFICE OF *the Governor*



RON DESANTIS
Florida Governor



JAMES UTHMEIER
Chief of Staff



PETER CUDERMAN
Legislative Affairs Director



CHRIS SPENCER
Office of Policy and Budget Director

THE CABINET



WILTON SIMPSON
Commissioner of Agriculture and
Consumer Services



ASHLEY MOODY
Attorney General



JIMMY PATRONIS
Chief Financial Officer

FLORIDA *House*

PAUL RENNER
Speaker of the House



TOM LEEK
Budget Chair



MICHAEL GRANT
Majority Leader



CHUCK CLEMONS
Speaker Pro Tempore



DANNY PEREZ
Rules Chair and
Speaker Designate



FENTRICE DRISKELL
Minority Leader



FLORIDA *Senate*

KATHLEEN
PASSIDOMO
Senate President



DENNIS BAXLEY
President Pro Tempore



BEN ALBRITTON
Majority Leader and
President Designate



LAUREN BOOK
Minority Leader



DOUG BROXSON
Budget Chair



DEBBIE MAYFIELD
Rules Chair



FUTURE *Leaders*



JIM BOYD
Senate



JAY TRUMBULL
Senate



SAM GARRISON
House

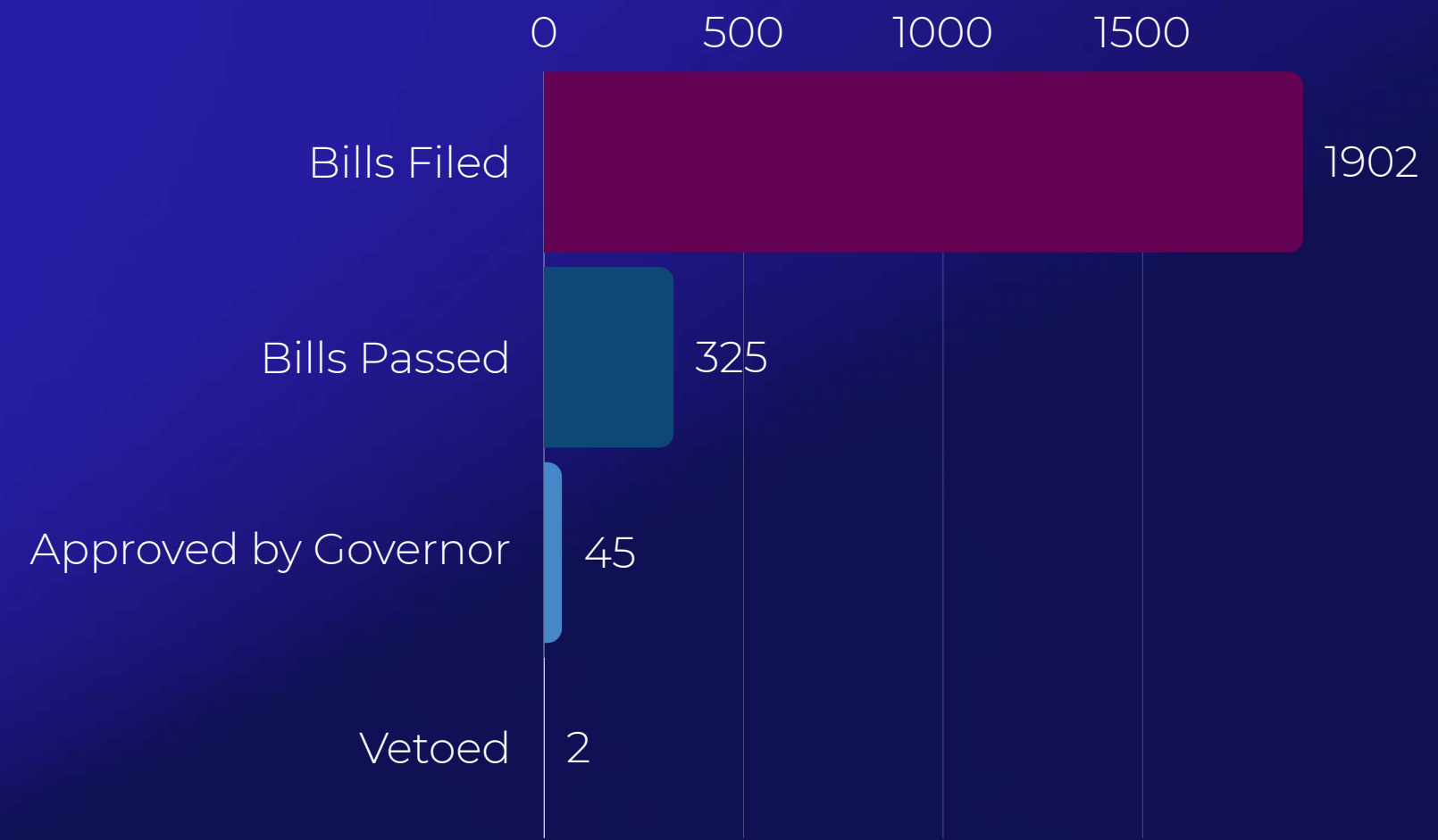


JENNIFER CANADY
House

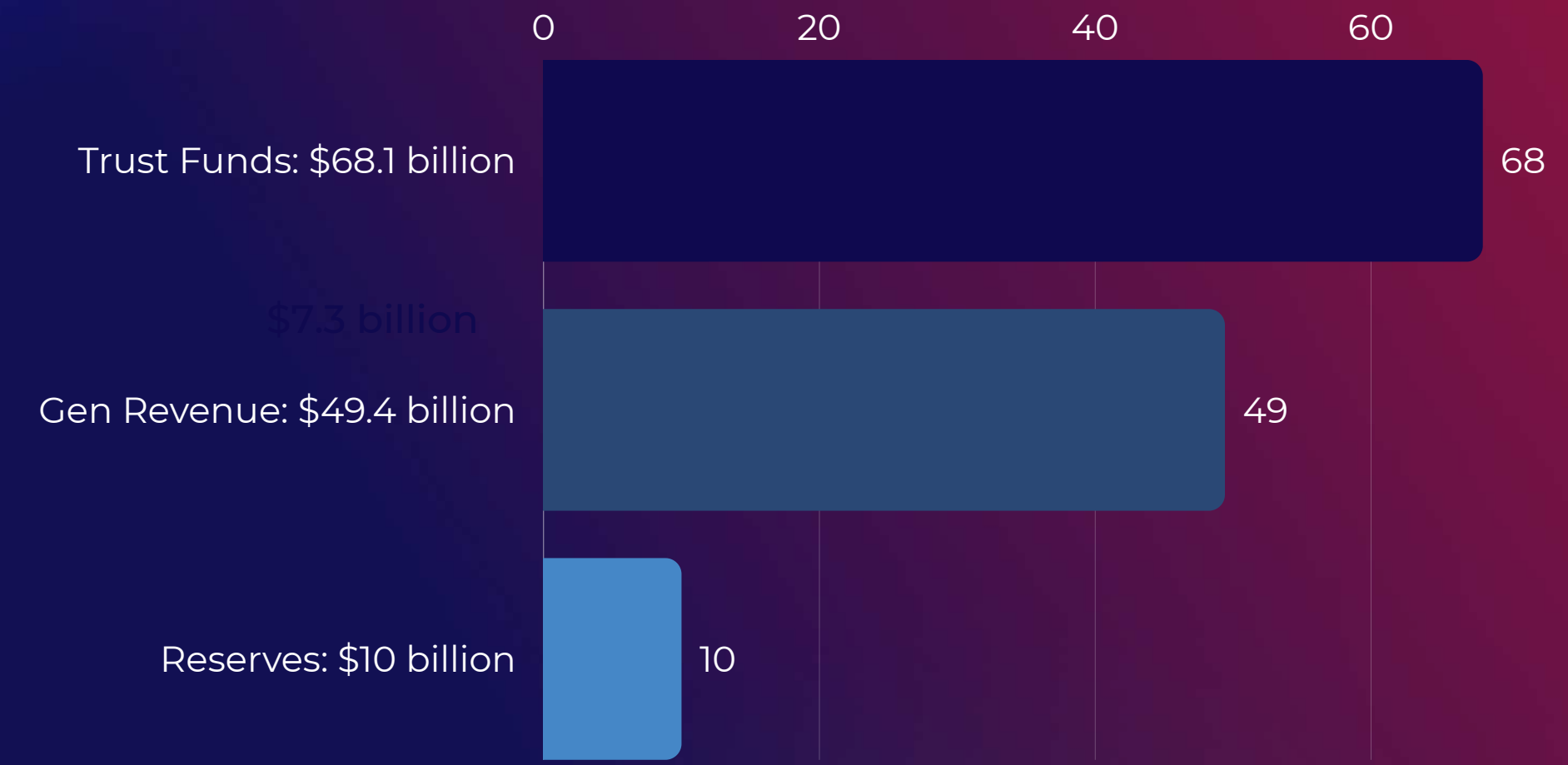
2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

By the Numbers

BILL ACTIONS*



TOTAL BUDGET: \$117.46 BILLION



*As of April 2, 2024



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LEADERSHIP
PRIORITIES

GOVERNOR *Priorities*



BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET

☆ Passed

HB 703 Sponsored by Reps. Tyler Sirois and Tommy Gregory

SB 324 Sponsored by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia

- Urges Congress, under Article V of the Constitution, to call a convention for proposing a balanced federal budget amendment.
- Mandates a balanced federal budget, except during national emergencies, ensuring expenses do not surpass projected revenues with fiscal constraints.
- Seeks to unite with other states' applications to achieve the required two-thirds for convention initiation, but solely on the subject of a balanced budget.
- This legislation remains active until at least two-thirds of states have submitted similar applications.

GOVERNOR *Priorities*



CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS

☆ Passed

HB 693 Sponsored by Reps. David Borrero and Tommy Gregory

SB 326 Sponsored by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia

- Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution requests Congress to call a convention for proposing amendments to limit the number of terms for U.S. Representatives and Senators.
- Responds to Florida voters' 1992 decision on term limits, overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1995.
- Plans to align with applications from Alabama, Missouri, and Wisconsin for an Article V convention.

GOVERNOR *Priorities*

PROPERTY INSURANCE TAX RELIEF

☆ Passed



HB 7073 Sponsored by Rep. Stan McClain

HB 7074 Sponsored by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia

- Provides a one-year exemption on taxes, fees, and assessments for residential property insurance policyholders with homes valued up to \$750,000.
- Effective on policies written between July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025.
- The exemption will include the Insurance Premium Tax, the State Fire Marshal Assessment, and the Florida Insurance Guarantee Association (FIGA) Assessment.
- One-year insurance premium tax exemption on flood insurance policies and reducing the cost of flood insurance policies.

SPEAKER *Priorities*



YOUTH AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Vetoed

HB 1

Sponsored by Rep. Tyler Sirois, Rep. Fiona McFarland, and Rep. Michele Rayner



PASSED AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

HB 3

Sponsored by Rep. Chase Tramont, Rep. Toby Overdorf, Rep. Tyler Sirois, Rep. Fiona McFarland, Rep. Michele Rayner

- Renner's top priority, the original bill, would have prevented children under 16 from creating new social media accounts while simultaneously deleting all preexisting accounts.
- Verified the age of new account holders by using either anonymous or standard third-party age verification methods.
- Allowed for private causes of action on behalf of or by minor account holders, with specified damages and filing periods.
- Vetoed by the Governor largely due to concerns over the lack of parental opt-in for children aged 14 and 15.
- The House and Senate reworked the bill and packaged it within HB 3 in the final week of session to include a delayed effective date, parental opt-in for ages 14 and 15, and other minor changes.
- The bill is still expected to be challenged in court.
- **Effective: January 1, 2025**

SPEAKER *Priorities*



ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION INCREASE

☆ Passed

HB 7017

Sponsored by: State Affairs Committee, Ways & Means Committee, Rep. James Buchanan. Co-Introducers: Sen. Ileana Garcia and Rep. Lauren Melo

- Passed by both chambers and will go to the ballot in November 2024.
- Establishes an amendment mandating yearly inflation adjustments to the valuation of specific homestead exemptions.
- Exempts the first \$25,000 of assessed real estate value for primary residences, with an additional exemption for values greater than \$50,000 and up to \$75,000 for non-school district taxes.
- Requires annual CPI adjustments for the \$25,000 exemption for non-school taxes.
- Provides tax relief on ad valorem taxes for veterans aged 65+ with combat-related disabilities, transferable to a surviving spouse.
- **Effective: January 1, 2025**

SPEAKER *Priorities*

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

☆ Passed

HB 7013

Sponsored by Rep. Jenna
Persons-Mulicka

SB 1058

Sponsored by Rep. Travis Hutson

- Statewide changes for managing Florida's independent special districts covering term limits, reporting rules, and operational boundaries.
- Requires a 12-year consecutive term limit for elected members of most types of independent special districts.
- Requires the maximum ad valorem millage rate levied by a mosquito control district to be reduced from 10 mills to 1 mill.
- District board of commissioners may increase the levy amount to 2 mills if a referendum approves the increase.
- Requires establishment of goals, objectives, performance measures, and an annual report outlining achieved and failed objectives.
- Requires yearly performance assessments of safe neighborhood improvement districts by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.
- Requires new criteria for deeming a special district inactive and updates procedures for notifying of a proposed declaration.
- Prohibits creation of new safe neighborhood improvement districts after July 1, 2024.
- **Effective: July 1, 2024**

PRESIDENT *Priorities*



LIVE HEALTHY ACT

☆ PASSED AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

SB 7016 Sponsored by Sen. Colleen Burton

SB 330 Sponsored by Sen. Jim Boyd

SB 7018 Sponsored by Sen. Gayle Harrell

SB 1758 Sponsored by Sen. Jason Brodeur

- Aims to grow Florida's healthcare workforce, increase access, and incentivize innovation.
- A package introduced in January moved through the Senate with hardly any opposition.
- Invests over \$800 million into healthcare systems and initiatives.
- Creates the Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program.
- Increases the Slots for Doctors Program funding by \$50 million and 500 new residency slots.
- Creates a 15-member Health Care Innovation Council to convene healthcare experts to explore innovations in healthcare technology.
- Creates a \$500 million 10-year revolving loan program to implement innovative solutions that the council will regulate.
- Expands access to free and charitable clinics by increasing eligibility for access to care.
- Expands Florida reimbursement assistance for medical and dental education.
- **Effective Date: While some of the newly signed bills are now in effect, some provisions will not be effective until July 1.**

PRESIDENT *Priorities*



DEREGULATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Effective: July 1, 2024

☆ Passed

DEREGULATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS / INSTRUCTIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL (SB 7000)

Sponsored by Sen. Alexis Calatayud

- "Learn Local" package: teacher recruitment, retention, graduation requirements, and school innovation.
- Streamlines certification for VPK teachers and expands apprenticeship programs.
- Modifies high school assessment requirements for transfers and graduates.
- Allows issuance of temporary certifications and removes restrictions on salary adjustments.

DEREGULATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS (SB 7002)

Sponsored by Sen. Travis Hutson

EDUCATION (HB 7039)

Sponsored by Choice & Innovation Subcommittee and Rep. Alex Rizo

- Updates public school deregulation, changes superintended role, alters parental notification system.
- Increases flexibility of federal fund usage and budget publication.
- Revises policies on teacher assignment and salary schedules, enables assessments for general knowledge mastery, and offers certification fee waivers.

EDUCATION (SB 7004)

Sponsored by Sen. Corey Simon and Sen. Rosalind Osgood

EDUCATION (HB 7025)

Sponsored by Rep. Dana Trubulsky

- Makes significant changes to tuition fees, performance evaluation, virtual instruction, early learning, assessment procedures, and instructional materials.
- Adjusts "adequate instructional materials" requirements and expands offerings of virtual instruction.



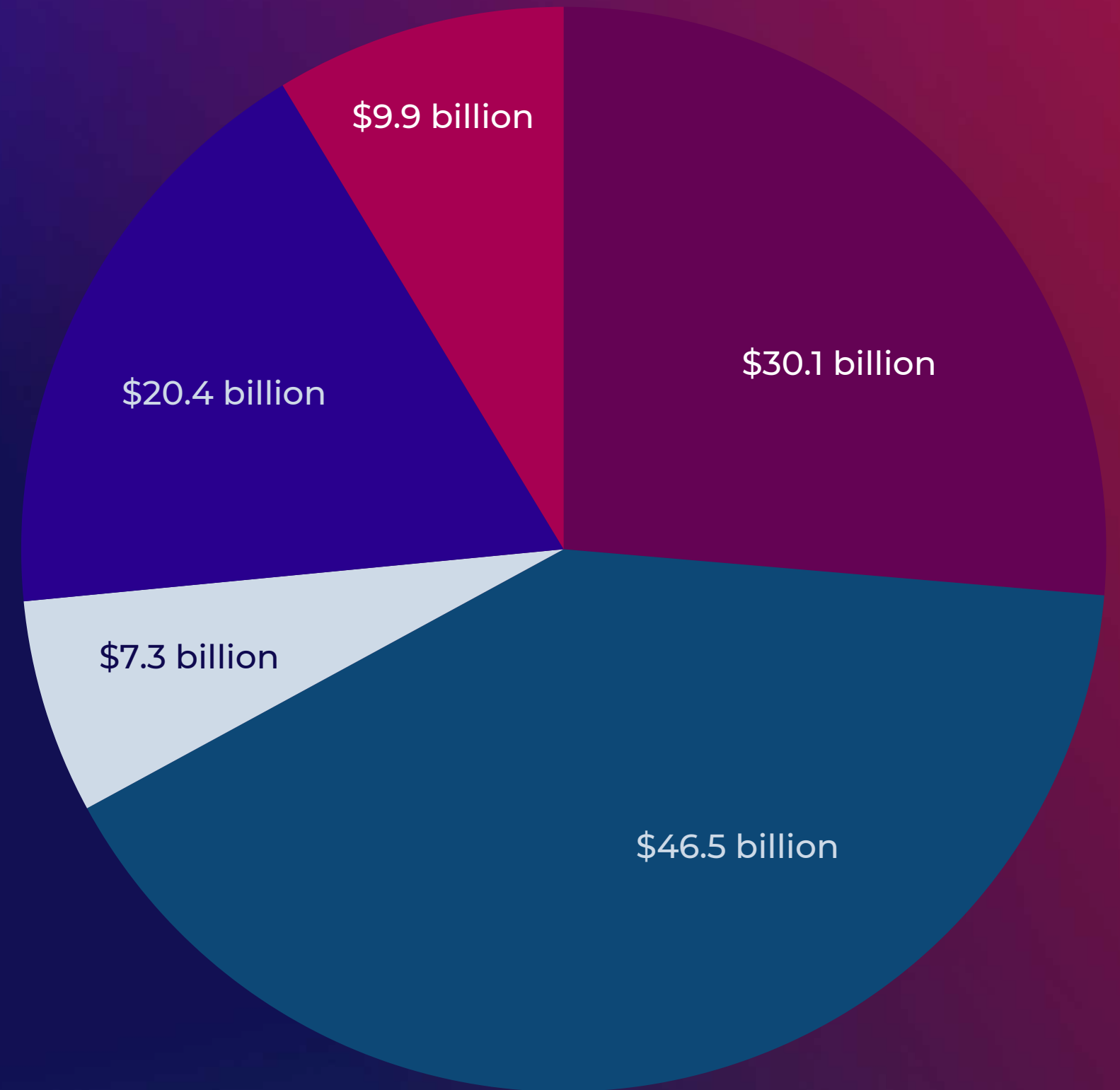
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THE
BUDGET

2024 BUDGET *Breakdown*

TOTAL BUDGET \$117.46 BILLION

- 41% Health and Human Services
- 26% Education
- 18% Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development
- 9% Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
- 6% Criminal and Civil Justice



BIG Ticket Items



Session-long emphasis (particularly in the House) to decrease spending and increase reserves.

- **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- Live Healthy - \$717 million

- **EDUCATION**

- Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) - \$28.4 billion
- Increase to K12 - \$1.8 billion
- Higher education budget increases

- **TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Transportation Work Plan - Moving Florida Forward completion - \$13.98 billion
- Visit Florida - \$80 million
- Florida Job Growth Grant Fund - \$75 million
- State worker pay raise - 3%
- Hometown Hero program - \$100 million

- **AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT & GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

- Florida Forever Programs and land acquisition - \$529 million

- **CRIMINAL & CIVIL JUSTICE**

- Prison infrastructure - \$100 million

TAX Package

HB 7073 - SPONSORED BY REP. STAN MCCLAIN
SB 7074 - SPONSORED BY SEN. BLAISE INGOGLIA



HOMESTEAD PROPERTIES

- Reduces premium taxes by 1.75% for a year.



SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF

- Businesses that employ persons with unique abilities will receive \$1,000 per employee toward corporate income tax.



STRONG FAMILIES TAX CREDIT

- Increases tax credit on corporate income from \$20 million to \$40 million for businesses that donate to charities supporting children's welfare.



FREEDOM MONTH SALES TAX HOLIDAY

- July 2024



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALES TAX HOLIDAY

- July 29, 2024 - August 11, 2024



TOOL TIME SALES TAX HOLIDAY

- September 1, 2024 - September 7, 2024



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SALES TAX HOLIDAYS

- June 1, 2024 - June 14, 2024
- August 24, 2024 - September 6, 2024





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POLICY

Insurance

☆ PASSED

HB 1611 - SPONSORED BY REP. CYNDI STEVENSON
SB 1622 - SPONSORED BY SEN. JAY TRUMBULL

- Data reporting: Switch from quarterly to monthly reporting to OIR, based on zip code instead of county.
- Property insurance nonrenewals: Grant Financial Services Commission rulemaking authority for nonrenewal notices of over 10,000 residential policies annually.
- PHA self-insurance trust funds: Raises maximum per-loss occurrence amount for PHA funds, contingent on maintaining excess insurance coverage and meeting criteria.
- Prohibition on policy cancellations: limits surplus lines insurers' ability to cancel or non-renew residential policies post-hurricane or wind loss.
- Hurricane modeling: requires consistent use of hurricane models within the state by insurers, with justification for weighted averages.
- **Effective: July 1, 2024**



MEDICAL TREATMENT UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION *Law*

SB 362 - SPONSORED BY SEN. JENNIFER BRADLEY

HB 161 - SPONSORED BY REP. DAN DALEY AND REP. CHIP LAMARCA

☆ PASSED



- Increases the maximum medical reimbursements for physicians and surgical procedures and the maximum fees for expert witnesses under ch. 440, F.S., Workers Compensation Law.
- Increases the maximum reimbursement allowances (MRA) for licensed physicians to 175% of Medicare, and the MRA for surgical procedures to 210% of Medicare.
- Increases the maximum hourly amount allowed for expert witnesses to \$300 per hour. If an expert witness is subject to the daily rate, the maximum amount allowed is increased to \$300 per day.
- **Effective: January 1, 2025.**

TREATMENT BY A MEDICAL

Specialist

HB 637 - SPONSORED BY REP. BRAD YEAGER
SB 808 - SPONSORED BY SEN. NICK DICEGLIE

☆ PASSED



- Authorizes medical treatment for presumptive conditions for firefighters, law enforcement, correctional, and probation officers.
- Written notice of the selected medical specialist must be provided to the workers' compensation entity.
- Exception to usual provider selection process under workers' compensation law.
- Workers' compensation entity must authorize the selected specialist within five days and schedule treatment within 30 days.
- Continuing care must be reasonable, necessary, and related to specified conditions.
- Reimbursement for treatment by a medical specialist is capped at 200% of the Medicare rate.
- "Medical specialist" defined as a board-certified physician in relevant specialties.
- **Effective: October 1, 2024**

SUITS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT:

Sovereign Immunity

SB 472 - SPONSORED BY SEN. JASON BRODEUR
HB 569 - SPONSORED BY REP. FIONA MCFARLAND

X DIED



- Would have increased the per-person and per-incident caps on claims against government agencies from \$200,000 to \$400,000 and \$300,000 to \$500,000, respectively.
- Would have been the first adjustment in permissible claim amounts against government agencies without a legislative claim bill since 2010.
- Updated the statute of limitations for civil actions concerning negligence, contribution, medical malpractice, wrongful death, and specified cases.
- Required the Department of Financial Services to adjust liability limits every 5 years using the Consumer Price Index, capped at a maximum 3% increase.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT *Actions*

SB 1628 - SPONSORED BY SEN. JAY COLLINS
HB 1547 - SPONSORED BY REP. LAWRENCE MCCLURE

PASSED

- Current law exempts counties and cities from producing a “business impact estimate” before passing an ordinance related to growth policy, county and municipal planning, and land development regulations.
- This bill limits the exemptions to development orders, permits, and agreements.
- Local governments must produce a “business impact statement,” including an estimate of the direct economic impact of the government action, before passing an ordinance or adopting/implementing a comprehensive plan amendment or land development regulation other than those initiated by a private party.
- A local government holding a referendum on approving a bond issue greater than \$500 million must do so at a general election instead of a special election held for that purpose.
- **Effective: October 1, 2024.**



LOOKING *Ahead*

April 22-26, 2024

- Qualifying for Federal, State Attorney, Public Defender, and Judicial Offices

June 10-14, 2024

- Qualifying for state and local offices

August 2, 2024

- Deadline for filing claim bills

August 20, 2024

- Primary Election

November 5, 2024

- General Election

March 4, 2025

- Regular 2025 Legislative Session convenes

April 19, 2025

- Motion to reconsider and considered the same day.

April 22, 2025

- 50th day - Last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings.

May 2, 2025

- 60th day - Last day of 2025 regular session.

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Questions





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THANK YOU